

**BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

Hilda L. Solis  
First District

Holly J. Mitchell  
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath  
Third District

Janice Hahn  
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger  
Fifth District



**Chief  
Executive  
Office.**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 973-1101 ceo.lacounty.gov

**INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Joseph M. Nicchitta

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND CHAPTER 13.46 OF TITLE 13, PUBLIC PEACE, MORALS AND WELFARE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE RELATING TO ORGANIZERS AND PROMOTERS OF ILLEGAL MOTOR VEHICLE SPEED CONTESTS, RECKLESS DRIVING EXHIBITIONS, AND STREET TAKEOVERS CONDUCTED ON THE PUBLIC STREET, HIGHWAY, OR OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITY  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Chief Executive Office-Municipal and Unincorporated Area Services (CEO-MUAS) is recommending the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve an ordinance amending Title 13 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code), to apply to organizers and promoters of illegal street takeovers, and other amendments consistent with the April 15, 2025, Board motion and the recent Garcia v. County of Alameda decision (ordinance). As amended, the ordinance would establish a fine for violations of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), encourage diversion in lieu of penalty when appropriate, incorporate additional activities prohibited by the California Vehicle Code into its definitions, expand its applicability to off-street parking facilities, and remove its applicability to spectators, consistent with First Amendment legal principles articulated in the Garcia decision.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the ordinance amending to County Code Chapter 13.46 applying to organizers and promoters of illegal street takeovers is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the project.

2. Introduce, waive reading, and place the proposed ordinance on a future agenda for adoption to amend Chapter 13.46 of Title 13, Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to organizers and promoters of illegal motor vehicle speed contests, reckless driving exhibitions, and street takeovers conducted on the public street, highway, or off-street parking facility to establish a fine for violations of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), encourage diversion in lieu of penalty for first time violators when appropriate, incorporate additional activities prohibited by the California Vehicle Code into its definitions, and expand its applicability to off-street parking facilities.
3. Approve the ordinance amending Chapter 13.46 of Title 13, Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Los Angeles County Code.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended actions is to find that they are exempt from CEQA and to approve the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 13.46 of the Los Angeles County Code.

On November 6, 2024, your Board directed the CEO and relevant County of Los Angeles (County) departments and partners to create a strategic plan to curtail street takeovers that incorporated community feedback. A Street Takeover Reduction workgroup made up of representatives from the CEO, Departments of Public Works, Youth Development, Sheriff, County Counsel, Public Health, District Attorney, Los Angeles City Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Civilian Oversight Commission, Los Angeles City Attorney, Street Racing Kills, Streets Are For Everyone, Project Street Legal, and resident advocates developed the Los Angeles County Street Takeover Reduction Action Plan (Action Plan) that was presented to your Board on March 4, 2025.

The Action Plan included recommendations to amend the County Code based on several factors, including community feedback from affected residents, best practices in other jurisdictions, and input from law enforcement. The goal for these amendments is to reduce the number of these incidents by disincentivizing the organizers and participants' involvement in them.

Community events held between February and May 2024, with affected residents yielded consistent themes of increasing enforcement and legal support to safely respond to illegal street takeovers, implementing various deterrents to reduce the occurrence of these events, and expanding prevention and education efforts.

Law enforcement identified a gap between the County Code and other jurisdictions' ordinances which allowed for larger fines or harsher punishments for street takeover participants. Several changes to the existing County Code Chapter 13.46 were identified to strengthen law enforcement's ability to address street takeover participants, as well as organizers or promoters of these events.

Adopting the proposed ordinance will enhance law enforcement's ability to curtail street racing activities in the unincorporated County by targeting the organizers and promoters of them with fines and expanding the reach to off-street parking facilities. The proposed amendments also include options for diversion to balance the enhanced enforcement with the County's "Care First, Jails Last" vision.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions support the County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan – North Star 2: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Goal B: Care First, Jails Last, and Goal C: Public Safety, by

encouraging diversion for first time participants and reducing the frequency of illegal street takeovers and the disruptions to residents' quality of life in our unincorporated communities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no direct or immediate fiscal impact related to the proposed ordinance amendments.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On April 15, 2025, your Board directed County Counsel, in collaboration with the CEO, and other relevant County departments and community stakeholders, to report back with a draft amendment to County Code Chapter 13.46 to: 1) Increase applicable misdemeanor fines from \$500 to \$1,000 and include a specific provision for opportunities for diversion; 2) Expand the ordinance to apply to "street takeovers" or "sideshows," as well as reckless driving; 3) Expand the ordinance to individuals who "organize or knowingly encourage, promote, instigate, assist, facilitate, aid, or abet" such illegal takeover events; 4) Expand the ordinance beyond public highways to include "off-street parking facilities;" and 5) Any other relevant changes consistent with these.

While those amendments were being prepared, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit determined that a similar anti-spectator law in the County of Alameda was unconstitutional under the First Amendment as it applied to spectators. Therefore, the amendments to Chapter 13.46 of the County Code contemplated by the motion could not move forward, as directed. However, the need for strengthened enforcement options, balanced by opportunities for diversion, remained an important component of the County's Action Plan, so the enhanced enforcement amendments to Chapter 13.46 identified in the April 2025 Board motion have been directed toward organizers and promoters instead of spectators, consistent with the First Amendment.

The analysis of and proposed ordinance as approved by County Counsel is enclosed.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The amendments to Chapter 13.46 apply to organizers and promoters of illegal motor vehicle speed contests, reckless driving exhibitions, and street takeovers conducted on the public street, highway, or off-street parking facility to establish a fine for violations of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), encourage diversion in lieu of penalty for first time violators when appropriate, incorporate additional activities prohibited by the California Vehicle Code into its definitions, and expands its applicability to off-street parking facilities is exempt from CEQA. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). The proposed project is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The adoption of a criminal law with applicable penalties is exempt under this commonsense exemption because the proposed ordinance has no potential to cause significant, or any but the most trivial effect on the environment based upon the project record.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

While there may be an increased short-term need for law enforcement support as a result of these changes, the goal is to create greater deterrents for organizers and/or participants of these illegal events which would hopefully reduce the need for law enforcement resources in the long-term and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

5/12/2026

Page 4

improve the quality of life for residents in affected areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Nicchitta

Interim Chief Executive Officer

JMN:JG:CDM:kdm

Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
District Attorney  
Sheriff  
Public Health  
Public Works  
Youth Development  
Civilian Oversight Commission



County of Los Angeles

March 17, 2026

Dawyn R. Harrison  
County CounselJoseph Nicchitta  
Acting Chief Executive Office  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713  
Los Angeles, California 90012Attention: Carrie Miller, Senior Manager  
Policy Implementation and Alignment Branch**Re: Ordinance Amending Title 13 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the  
Los Angeles County Code**

Dear Mr. Nicchitta:

Enclosed please find the analysis and ordinance amending Title 13 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Los Angeles County Code. The ordinance applies to organizers and promoters of illegal street takeovers, includes other amendments consistent with the motion adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 15, 2025, and conforms to the recent *Garcia v. County of Alameda* decision. The ordinance also establishes a fine for violations of the ordinance of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), encourages diversion in lieu of penalty when appropriate, incorporates additional activities prohibited by the California Vehicle Code into its definitions, expands its applicability to offstreet parking facilities, and removes its applicability to spectators, consistent with First Amendment legal principles articulated in the *Garcia* decision.

Very truly yours,

DAWYN R. HARRISON  
County CounselBy   
LAURA T. JACOBSON  
Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AND RELEASED:

  
NICOLE DAVIS TINKHAM  
Chief Deputy
LTJ:tb  
Enclosure

## ANALYSIS

This ordinance amending Title 13 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Los Angeles County Code and applies to organizers and promoters of illegal motor vehicle speed contests, reckless driving exhibitions, and street takeovers conducted on a public street, highway, or offstreet parking facility. The amendments establish a fine for violations of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), encourage diversion in lieu of penalty for first time violators when appropriate, incorporate additional activities prohibited by the California Vehicle Code into the ordinance's definitions, remove its applicability to spectators, and expand its applicability to offstreet parking facilities.

DAWYN R. HARRISON  
County Counsel

By 

LAURA T. JACOBSON  
Deputy County Counsel  
Public Works Division

LTJ: tb

Requested 04/15/2025  
Revised 03/12/2026

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Title 13 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Los Angeles County Code and applies to organizers and promoters of illegal motor vehicle speed contests, reckless driving exhibitions, and street takeovers conducted on a public street, highway, or offstreet parking facility.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 13.46 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Chapter 13.46** ~~**SPECTATORS AT ORGANIZERS AND PROMOTERS OF**~~  
**ILLEGAL MOTOR VEHICLE SPEED CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS OF SPEED**

**SECTION 2.** Section 13.46.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.46.010** ~~**Prohibition.**~~ **Organizing Participants and Spectators**  
**Prohibition.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly organize, promote, assist, facilitate, aid, or abet:

A. ~~Be knowingly present as a spectator at any illegal motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed conducted on a public street or highway.~~ The gathering of persons as participants or spectators at any illegal motor vehicle speed contest, exhibition of speed, reckless driving exhibition, or street takeover conducted on a public street, highway, or offstreet parking facility; or

B. ~~Be knowingly present as a spectator where preparations are being made for any such event.~~ The gathering of persons as participants and spectators where preparations are being made for any illegal motor vehicle speed contest, exhibition of speed, reckless driving exhibition, or street takeover conducted on a public street, highway, or offstreet parking facility.

**SECTION 3.** Section 13.46.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.46.020 Definitions.**

The following definitions govern the construction of this chapter:

A. "Illegal motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed" ~~shall mean~~is defined as any speed contest or exhibition of speed referred to in California Vehicle Code ~~Sections~~ 23109(a) and 23109(c);

B. "Spectator" ~~shall mean~~is defined as any person who is present at an illegal motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed for the purpose of viewing, observing, watching, or witnessing the event as it progresses. A "spectator" includes any person at the location of the event without regard to whether the person arrived at the event by driving a vehicle, riding as a passenger in a vehicle, walking, or arriving by some other means;

...

D. "Preparations" for the illegal motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed include, but are not limited to, situations where: (1) a group of motor vehicles or persons has arrived at a predetermined location for the purpose of participating in or being a spectator at the event; (2) a group of individuals has lined one or both sides of a public street or highway for the purpose of participating in or being a spectator at the event; (3) one or more persons has impeded the free public use of a public street or highway by actions, words or physical barrier for the purpose of conducting the event; (4) two or more vehicles have lined up with motors running for an illegal motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed; (5) one or more drivers is racing his engine or

spinning his tires in preparation for the event; or, (6) an individual is stationed near one or more motor vehicles as a race starter;

E. "Street takeover" has the same meaning as "sideshow" as that term is defined in California Vehicle Code section 23109;

F. "Reckless driving exhibition" is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 23103;

G. "Offstreet parking facility" is as defined in subdivision (c) of California Vehicle Code section 12500.

**SECTION 4.** Section 13.46.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.46.030 Penalty.**

A. Violation of this chapter shall constitute a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed ~~\$500.00~~ 1,000.00, or by imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both.

B. In lieu of fine or penalty, first time violators of Section 13.46.010 may participate in a diversion program pursuant to the conditions set forth in subdivisions (1), (2), (3), and (4) below.

1. On an accusatory pleading alleging the commission of a misdemeanor as set forth in Section 13.46.010 the court may, in its discretion, and after considering the positions of the defense and prosecution, grant pretrial diversion to a defendant pursuant to this Section if the defendant satisfies the eligibility requirements for pretrial diversion set forth in subdivision (2) and the court determines that the defendant is suitable for that diversion under the factors set forth in subdivision (3).

2. A defendant is eligible for pretrial diversion pursuant to this Section if both of the following criteria are met:

a. The defendant has no prior arrests or convictions for violations of Section 13.46.010.

b. There was no significant harm to persons or property as a result of the defendant's commission of the aforementioned misdemeanor, pursuant to Section 13.46.010.

3. For any defendant who satisfies the eligibility requirements in subdivision (2), the court must consider whether the defendant is suitable for pretrial diversion. A defendant is suitable for pretrial diversion if all of the following criteria are met:

a. The defendant consents to diversion and waives the defendant's right to a speedy trial.

b. The defendant agrees to comply with all court-imposed conditions of probation as a condition of diversion.

c. The defendant will not pose an unreasonable risk of danger to public safety, if diversion is granted. The court may consider the opinions of the district attorney, the defense, and the defendant's criminal history as it relates to vehicular offenses, the current charged offense, and any other factors that the court deems appropriate.

4. At any stage of the proceedings, the court may require the defendant to make a prima facie showing that the defendant will meet the minimum requirements of eligibility for diversion and that the defendant and the offense are

suitable for diversion. The hearing on the prima facie showing shall be informal and may proceed on offers of proof, reliable hearsay, and argument of counsel. If a prima facie showing is not made, the court may summarily deny the request for diversion or grant any other relief as may be deemed appropriate.

**SECTION 5.** 13.46.040 is hereby added to read as follows:

**13.46.040 Severability.**

If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the offending portion shall be severed and shall not affect the validity of remaining portions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

[CH1346LJCC]